



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

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FORMER NBA STAR SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT

(Richmond, VA) – Ralph Sampson, Jr., age 46, of Dacula, Georgia, pled guilty today to one count of mail fraud and was sentenced on that charge by United States District Judge James Spencer to a 60-day term of imprisonment. He was also sentenced to a concurrent 60-day term of imprisonment for an earlier federal felony conviction in the Eastern District of Virginia for failure to pay child support.

As part of his sentence, Sampson was ordered to pay \$268,322.54 in outstanding child support arrearages, and agreed pay \$19,350.00 in future support payments for his two daughters, who live in Virginia. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia and Patrick J. Doyle, Special Agent in Charge of Investigations, Department of Health and Human Services, announced the conviction and sentence.

In pleading guilty to mail fraud, Sampson admitted that in November 2004, he purchased an SUV in Georgia listing his business, Stick Five-O, Inc., and his father, Ralph Sampson, Sr., as co-owners. In the purchasing documentation, Sampson falsely identified his father as the president of Stick Five-O and Sampson forged his father's signature on the financing paperwork filed with the car dealership. He also falsely misrepresented the assets of the business.

Sampson was also sentenced for his repeated failure to pay court-ordered child support. On October 28, 2005, Sampson pled guilty to one felony and one misdemeanor count of failing to pay child support. "The lesson here is quite simple," stated U.S. Attorney Rosenberg. "Pay your child support. Tell the truth. That solves most problems."

The case was investigated by the Department of Health and Human Services and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Sara E. Flannery.

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